

A mess up meditation

Mid Winter Scotch Run 2021
& PAC6 Honolulu to Wellington 2021

How I finished in these races is not too important. That I could have done a lot better is the subject of my short self-flagellation which may help others on their way up the Staircase to SOL heaven.

It's been a pattern in my SOL-ing that I start off ok but then commit blunders. But something leapt out at me in the last two: **I've sailed a longer course on a crucial leg.** Simple as that. I might have been following QT blindly, might have missed a WX, or may not have "kept my head out of the boat" and covered others, but it cost me.

I can admit a degree of schadenfreude when I see someone BBQ, enter a wrong TWA sign, load outdated DC's, or use an incorrect polar. Chat covers those blunders well, and with appropriate sympathy and mirth.

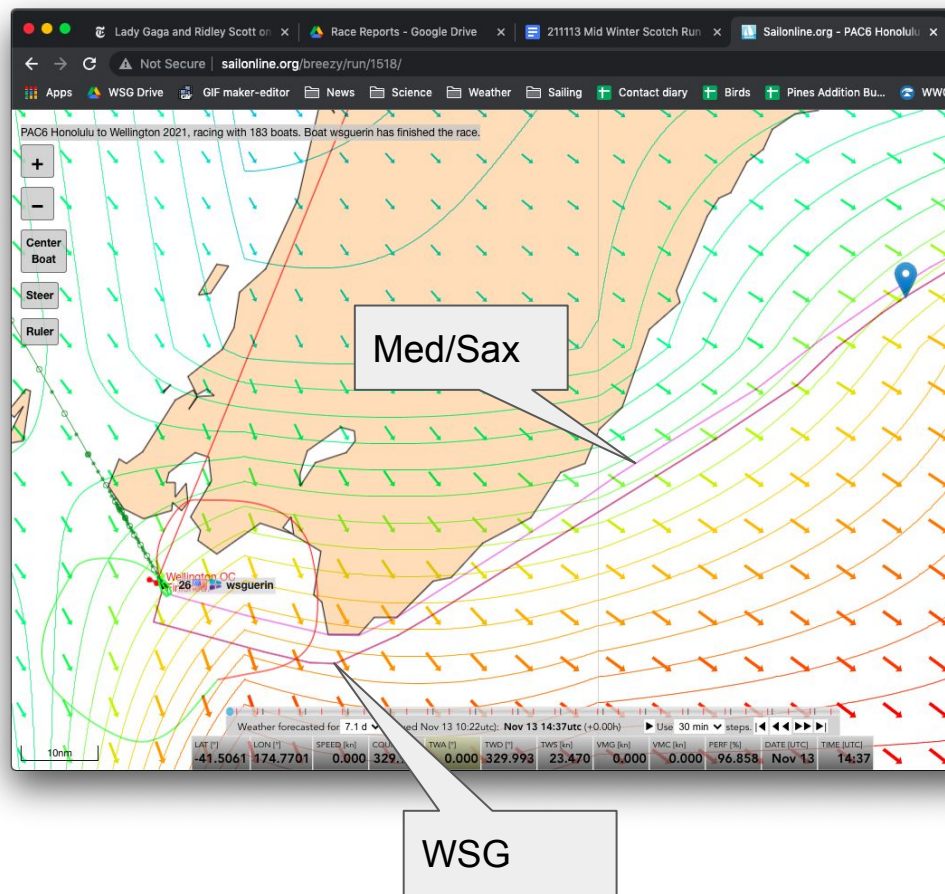
What I'm talking about now is more a dope-slap kind of mental mistake that in hindsight you ask "what the hell was I thinking?"

Given my inattention to details, and usually missing the 0430WX, I can't expect to podium too often but, hey, a 14th and a 26th could have been a top ten and twenty with one small bit more of effort at a key point in the race.

Honolulu to Wellington

The last half day, late at night for me, took place as I descended into the effects of a breakthrough COVID infection. I woke up when my craft had just turned west but was well south of Cape Palliser. My course could have been 109nm not 116nm in length if I'd hugged the coast and turned like most others. At the time the wind was 25kts and as you can see we were on best vmg upwind at ~17kts needing a short hitch to the line to finish. The time difference is $6.411 \text{ hrs} \text{ v } 6.82 = .413 \text{ hours}$ or 24mins and 45 seconds for my longer course.

Taking that time off my finish, I would have given Antares or Rontos a run for their money! Hats off, of course, to the winners and those who bested me!



Scotch Run

This one happened while wide awake but clearly asleep at the wheel. The fleet split at the start with smart racers going left and right. #1 is Pitt (10), #2 is B1 (6), #3 is Mirek (1), #4 Freyja (13), #5 Slide (7) and WSG (14). Slide's great finish shows how fast he is. WS sailed 4nm further South than most, but had a fast angle to Lizard Point, closing to within a mile of the leaders. Badger bailed early and reaped the reward despite Pitt's hazing. But I had a good last leg and clawed back from the mid-twenties to a satisfying 14th. Woulda, coulda, shouda...

Given Covid, I wish I could have smelled the scotch in my hand! Cheers all, WS

